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June 23, 2016

Gary Gallegos
SANDAG
401 B St. Ste. 800
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Amendments to strengthen commitments to transit in SANDAG's 2016 ballot measure

Dear Mr. Gallegos:

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to create excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I am writing to make final recommendations for how to provide certainty for advancing transit in SANDAG's proposed 2016 ballot measure.

Circulate San Diego sincerely appreciates the many efforts by the SANDAG board and staff to improve the text of November's proposed ballot measure. The most recent draft language discussed at the June 10, 2016 board meeting provides clarity and certainty for when SANDAG's measure would distribute active transportation funding and finance trolley service enhancements.¹ These are important improvements that we strongly support.

We believe that the measure can be further improved by providing a reasonable timeframe to complete the remaining transit projects listed in the measure's Priority Corridors program.

1. SANDAG can earn Circulate San Diego's support by committing to priority transit in the first 15 years of the plan.

Circulate San Diego is willing to support a ballot measure that commits to building priority transit projects in a reasonable time frame of 15 years. The most recent draft's inclusion of a "goal" to advance transit² is an improvement, but it is insufficient. We would support the measure if it were amended as follows:

¹ San Diego Association of Governments, Board Meeting Agenda (June 10, 2016), available at http://www.sandag.org/uploads/meetingid/meetingid_4269_20771.pdf.

² San Diego Association of Governments, Board Meeting Agenda (June 24, 2016), Section 22C, available at http://www.sandag.org/uploads/meetingid/meetingid_4281_20832.pdf.

Section 22. Implementation of Ordinance:

C. The Commission ~~hereby establishes a goal of completing~~ shall complete the projects identified in Section 14 for the Priority Corridors Program by using its best efforts to take actions within its control to complete those projects within 15 years of the operative date of the Ordinance.

As we suggested in an earlier letter,³ a 15 year commitment could still provide a safety valve to amend that time frame with a two-thirds vote of the SANDAG board. Financial analyses from both Circulate and SANDAG show that all of the transit within the Priority Corridors program could be constructed within 15 years.⁴

2. SANDAG can further entice support for the ballot measure by expanding participation in the committee that oversees the region's transportation sales tax revenues.

Many organizations in San Diego have called upon SANDAG to improve its ballot measure. Advocates have successfully achieved many of the changes we have sought, though significant dissatisfaction among a variety of groups remains.

Circulate San Diego recommends that SANDAG address the trust deficit that exists over its operations and goals, by expanding the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee to include additional representatives with expertise relevant to modern regional transportation planning. This may serve as an olive branch. It will also improve the long term working relationship between SANDAG and the growing number of civil society organizations with an interest in SANDAG's work.

Specifically, we recommend that the Statement of Understanding Regarding the Implementation of the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee should be amended under Section II.A. to add the following:

Membership: There shall be ~~seven~~ ten ITOC voting members...

9. A person with experience in professional environmental advocacy related to major projects mitigation, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, or climate action plans.

10. A person with experience working for or in a leadership position with an organized labor union.

11. A person with experience in professional public policy advocacy related to transit, transportation planning, or active transportation.

³ Circulate San Diego, Policy Letter: Commitments to advancing transit in SANDAG's 2016 ballot measure (June 13, 2016), available at http://www.circulatesd.org/policy_letter_sandag_2016_committments.

⁴ *Id*; SANDAG, Handout at Board Meeting for Proposed Phasing Enhancements (June 10, 2016), available at <http://ow.ly/d/4Tcl>; and Circulate San Diego, Anatomy of a Ballot Measure, (May 11, 2016), page 13 and the final tab on the electronic appendix associated with this report, available at <http://www.circulatesd.org/anatomyofaballotmeasure>.

Thank you for your continuing work to fund improvements to transportation choices in San Diego. We appreciate the efforts to address the concerns we have raised during this process, and we are hopeful that we can see SANDAG craft a ballot measure to enhance transit and active transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colin Parent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colin Parent
Policy Counsel, Circulate San Diego